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WEATHER / ANKARA
 Wednesday, Partly Cloudy 31°C

Greece: Death toll from wildfires tops 60

Attica region in state of emergency as residents forced to evacuate homes



By Magda Panoutsopoulou and Furkan Naci Top
 ATHENS - The death toll from Monday's wildfires on the east and west coasts of Greece's Attica region has topped 60, officials said Tuesday. The two fires have injured more than 170, including at least 16 children, and

forced hundreds of Greek residents to abandon their homes. Evangelos Bourmos, the mayor of Rafina-Pikermi, said the death toll is likely to reach three figures, adding that nearly 2,000 homes have been destroyed. He had earlier said that 26 bodies

were found on Tuesday, in the beach resort of Mati, east of Athens, which is located in Attica. The coastal region on the western side of Attica, Kineta -- around 54 kilometers (34 miles) west of Athens -- was evacuated as fires broke out Monday afternoon... [MORE DETAILS](#)



Erdogan slams Israel's 'Jewish nation-state' law

By Muhammet Emin Avundukluoglu

ANKARA - President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday slammed Israel's controversial new "Jewish nation-state" law. "This law is evidence that, without doubt, Israel is the most Zionist, fascist, and racist state in the world," Erdogan told his ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party's parliamentary group meeting. "I call on the Islamic world, Christian world, all democratic and liberal states, non-governmental organizations, and members

of the media to move against Israel," he added. Drawing parallels to Adolf Hitler's Nazi racism, Erdogan said: "The Israeli administration's view to identify those ancient lands as belonging to Jews alone is no different from Hitler's obsession with the Aryan race." "The Hitler spirit which dragged the world into a major disaster has risen again among some Israeli officials," he added. Last week, the Knesset approved the law, which describes Israel as "the nation-state of... [MORE DETAILS](#)



Iraqi forces use lethal force against protesters

By Ibrahim Saleh
 BAGHDAD - Iraqi security forces used excessive and unnecessary lethal force against protesters in the southern city of Basra against high unemployment and poor public utilities, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Tuesday. In a statement, the New

York-based rights group said it investigated eight protests, in six of which security forces allegedly fired live ammunition, wounding at least seven protesters. According to the NGO, security forces also threw rocks and beat at least 47 people, including 29 during or after arrest. "The Iraqi... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Israel shoots down Syrian warplane in Golan



By Abdul Raouf Arnaout

JERUSALEM - Israel's air defenses shot down a Syrian warplane that violated Israeli airspace over the Golan Heights, according to the Israeli military on Tuesday. In a statement, the army said two Patriot missiles were fired at the Sukhoi fighter jet after it penetrated two kilometers into Israeli airspace. The military said the Russian-made jet was under

surveillance before entering the Israeli airspace. It remains unclear where exactly the warplane had crashed. "The IDF (army) is in high alert and will continue to operate against the violation of the 1974 Separation of Forces Agreement," the army said. Israel has occupied most of the Syrian Golan Heights since the 1967 Middle East War. [MORE DETAILS](#)

BRICS, Turkey meet offers opportunities

By Dilara Zengin and Gokhan Ergocun

ANKARA - The BRICS group inviting Turkey to its annual summit this week provides a significant opportunity for all member countries to develop better economic and political ties with Ankara, said the representative in South Africa of Turkey's Independent Industrialists' and

Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD). This invitation from the BRICS group -- made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- is also an important development for Turkey, Abubekir Salim told Anadolu Agency. The seriousness with which member countries approach the BRICS annual summit is reflected in the way the member

countries' presidents and other leaders make it a requirement to honor, he stressed. He noted that this year Turkey was invited to the summit even though it is not a member of the union, signifying the intention for inclusion and cooperation by the BRICS bloc. "The meeting will also provide an opportunity for... [MORE DETAILS](#)